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A NEW TRANSLATION OF THE BOOK OF JUBILEES.¹

PART II.

XV.—And in the fifth year of the fourth² week of this jubilee, in the third month, in the middle of the month, Abram celebrated the feast of the first-fruits of the grain harvest. 2. And he offered new offerings on the altar, the first-fruits of the produce, unto the Lord, an ox and a goat and a sheep on the altar as a burnt sacrifice unto the Lord; their fruit offerings and their drink offerings he offered upon the altar with frankincense. 3. And the Lord appeared to Abram, and said: "I am God Almighty; approve thyself before me and be thou perfect. 4. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and I will multiply thee exceedingly." 5. And Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, and said: 6. "Behold my ordinance is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of many nations. 7. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name from henceforth, even for ever, shall be Abraham, for the father of many nations have I made thee. 8. And I will make thee very great, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come forth from thee. 9. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee, and thy seed after thee, throughout their generations, for an eternal covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, throughout their generations."³ 10. (And I will give to thee and to thy seed after thee)⁴ the land where thou sojournest, the land of Canaan, that thou mayest possess it for ever, and I will be their God." 11. And God said unto Abraham: "And as for thee, do thou keep my covenant, thou and thy seed after thee; and circumcise every male among you, and circumcise your foreskins, and it shall be a token of an eternal covenant between me and you. 12. And the child of eight days old ye shall circumcise, every male throughout your generations, him that is born in the house, or whom ye have bought with money from any

¹ For an account of the MSS. on which this translation is based, see JEWISH QUARTERLY REVIEW, V.

² "Seventh," B.

³ A om.

⁴ Restored from Gen. xvii. 8, being lost through print.

stranger, whom ye possess, who are not of thy seed. 13. He that is born in thy house shall be circumcised, and those whom thou hast bought with money shall be circumcised, and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an eternal ordinance. 14. And the uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin on the eighth day, that soul shall be cut off from his people, for he has broken my covenant." 15. And God said unto Abraham: "As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt no more call her name Sarai, for Sarah shall be her name. 16. And I will bless her, and give thee a son by her, and I will bless him, and he will become a nation, and kings of nations will proceed from him." 17. And Abraham fell on his face, and rejoiced, and said in his heart: "Shall a son be born to him that is a hundred years old, and shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bring forth?" 18. And Abraham said unto God: "O that Ishmael might live before thee!" 19. And God said: "Yea, and Sarah also shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name Isaac, and I will establish my covenant with him, an everlasting covenant, and for his seed after him. 20. And as for Ishmael also have I heard thee, and behold I will bless him, and make him great, and multiply him exceedingly, and he will beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to thee, in these days, in the next year." 22. And he left off speaking with him, and God went up from Abraham. 23. And Abraham did according as God had said unto him, and he took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and whom he had bought with his money, every male in his house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin. 24. And on the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and all the men of his house, and those born in the house,¹ and all those whom he had bought with money from the stranger, were circumcised with him. 25. This law is for all the generations for ever, and there is no circumcision of the time, and no passing over one day out of the eight days; for it is an eternal ordinance, ordained and written on the heavenly tables. 26. And every one that is born, the flesh of whose foreskin is not circumcised on the eighth day, belongs not to the children of the covenant which the Lord made with Abraham, for (he belongs) to the children of destruction; nor is there, moreover, any sign on him that he is the Lord's, but (he is destined) to be destroyed and slain from the earth, and to be rooted out of the earth, for he has broken the covenant of the Lord our God. 27. For all the angels of the presence and all the angels of sanctification have been so created from the day of their creation, and before the angels

¹ Restored from Latin.

of the presence and the angels of sanctification he hath sanctified Israel, that they should be with him and with his holy angels. 28. And do thou command the children of Israel that they observe the sign of this covenant for their generations as an eternal ordinance, and that they be not rooted out of the land. 29. For the command is ordained for a covenant, that they should observe it for ever among all the children of Israel. 30. For Ishmael and his sons and his brothers and Esau, the Lord did not cause to approach him, and he chose not amongst them because they are the children of Abraham, because he knew them, but he chose Israel to be his people. 31. And he sanctified it, and gathered it from amongst all the children of men; for there are many nations and many peoples, and all are his, and over all hath he placed spirits in authority to lead them astray from him. 32. But over Israel he did not appoint any angel or spirit, for he alone is their ruler, and he will preserve them and require them at the hand of his angels and his spirits, and at the hand of everyone, and of all set in authority by him,¹ in order that he may preserve them and bless them, and that they may be his and he may be theirs from henceforth for ever. 33. And now I will announce unto thee that the children of Israel will not keep true to this ordinance, and they will not circumcise their sons according to all this law; for in the flesh of their circumcision they will omit this circumcision of their sons, and all of them, sons of Belial, will leave their sons uncircumcised as they were born. 34. And there will be great wrath from the Lord against the children of Israel, because they have forsaken his covenant and turned aside from his word, and provoked and blasphemed according as they have not observed the ordinance of this law; for they treat their members like the Gentiles, so that they may be removed and rooted out of the land. And there will be no pardon or forgiveness for them, so that there should be pardon and release from all the sin of this error for ever.

XVI.—And on the new moon of the fourth month we appeared unto Abraham, at the oak of Mamre, and we talked with him, and we announced to him that a son would be given to him by Sarah his wife. 2. And Sarah laughed, for she heard us speaking these words with Abraham, and we admonished her, and she became afraid, and denied that she had laughed on account of the words. 3. And we told her the name of her son, as his name is ordained and written in the heavenly tables, (*i.e.*) Isaac. 4. And when we returned to her at a set time, she conceived a son. 5. And in this month the Lord executed his judgments on Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Sôbôîm, and all the

¹ Emended.

region of the Jordan, and he burned them with fire and brimstone, and destroyed them until this day, even as, lo, I have declared unto thee all their works, that they are wicked and sinners exceedingly, and that they have defiled themselves and committed fornication in their flesh, and wrought uncleanness on the earth. 6. And, in like manner, *God* will execute judgment on the places where they do according to the uncleanness of the Sodomites, in like manner as he judged¹ Sodom. 7. But Lot we saved; for *God* remembered Abraham, and sent him out from the midst of the overthrow. 8. And he and his daughters committed sin upon the earth, such as had not been on the earth since the days of Adam till his time; for the man lay with his daughters. 9. And, behold, it was commanded and engraven concerning all his seed, on the heavenly tables, to remove them and root them out, and to execute judgment upon them like the judgment of Sodom, and to leave no seed of this man on earth on the day of condemnation. 10. And in this month Abraham moved from Hebron, and departed and dwelt between Kadesh and Sûr, in the mountains of Gerar. 11. And in the middle of the fifth month he moved from thence, and dwelt at the well of the oath. 12. And in the middle of the sixth month the Lord visited Sarah, and he did unto her as he had spoken. 13. And she conceived and bare a son in the third month, and in the middle of the month, at the time of which the Lord had spoken to Abraham, on the festival of the first fruits of the harvest, Isaac was born. 14. And Abraham circumcised his son on the eighth day: he was the first that was circumcised according to the covenant which is ordained for ever. 15. And in the sixth year of the fourth week we came to Abraham, to the well of the oath, and we appeared unto him as we had told Sarah that we should return to her, and she conceived a son. 16. And we returned in the seventh month, and found Sarah pregnant before us, and we blessed him,² and we announced to him³ all the things which had been decreed concerning him, that he should not die till he should beget six sons more, and should see (them) before he died; but that in Isaac should his name and seed be called. 17. And that all the seed of his sons should be Gentiles, and be reckoned with the Gentiles; but from the sons of Isaac one should become a holy seed, and should not be reckoned among the Gentiles; 18. For he should become the portion of the Most High, and all his seed had fallen into the possession of God, that it should be unto the Lord⁴ of glory³ a people above all nations, and that it might become

¹ ABC emended.

² Emended with Lat.

³ So AB; C gives "a treasure of glory"; D "a people of inheritance"; Lat. "a holy people." We should possibly read "a people for (his) possession." Cf. Ex. ix. 5; Deut. vii. 6; xiv. 2; xxvi. 18.

a kingdom* of priests¹ and a holy nation. 19. And we went our way, and we announced to Sarah all that we had told him, and they both rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 20. And he built there an altar to the Lord who had delivered him, and made him rejoice in the land of his sojourning, and he celebrated a festival of joy in this month seven days, at the altar which he had built at the well of the oath. 21. And he built booths for himself and for his servants on this festival, and he was the first to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles on the earth. 22. And during these seven days he brought each day to the altar a burnt offering to the Lord, two oxen, two rams, seven sheep, one kid of the goats, for a sin offering, that he might atone thereby for himself and for his seed. 23. And as a peace offering seven rams, seven kids, seven sheep, and seven he-goats, and their fruit offering and their drink offering; and² he burnt all the fat thereof on the altar, a chosen offering unto the Lord for a sweet smelling savour. 24. Morning and evening he burnt fragrant substances, frankincense and galbanum, and stackte, and nard, and myrrh, and spice, and costum; all these seven he offered, crushed, mixed together in equal parts (and) pure. 25. And he celebrated this feast during seven days, rejoicing with all his heart and with all his soul, he and all those who were in his house, and there was no stranger with him, nor any that was uncircumcised. 26. And he blessed his Creator who had created him in his generation, for he had created him according to his good pleasure; for he knew and perceived that from him would arise the plant of righteousness for the eternal generations, and from him a holy seed, so that it should become like him who made all things. 27. And he blessed and rejoiced, and he called the name of that festival the festival of the Lord, a joy acceptable to the most high God. 28. And we blessed him for ever, and all his seed after him throughout all the generations of the earth, because he celebrated that festival in its season, according to the testimony of the heavenly tables. 29. For this reason it is ordained in the heavenly tables concerning Israel that they shall celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles seven days with joy, in the seventh month, acceptable before the Lord—a statute for ever throughout their generations every year. 30. And to this there is no limit of days; for it is ordained for ever regarding Israel that they should celebrate it and dwell in booths, and set wreaths upon their heads, and take leafy boughs, and willows from the brook. 31. And Abraham took branches³ of the palm, and the fruit of goodly trees, and every day going round the

¹ Emended with Lat. and Ex. xix. 5, 6.

² Emended with Lat.

³ Emended with Lev. xxiii. 40. Eth. and Lat. texts corrupt, the former = "the heart," the latter = "the glory."

altar with the branches seven times [a day] in the morning, he praised and gave thanks to his God for all things in joy.

XVII.—And in the first year of the fifth week Isaac was weaned in this jubilee, and Abraham made a great banquet in the third month, on the day his son Isaac was weaned. 2. And Ishmael, the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, was before the face of Abraham, his father, in his place, and Abraham rejoiced and blessed *God* because he saw his sons and had not died childless. 3. And he remembered the words which he had spoken to him on the day on which Lot had parted from him, and he rejoiced because the Lord had given him seed upon the earth to inherit the earth, and he blessed with all his mouth the Creator of all things. 4. And Sarah saw Ishmael playing* and dancing,¹ and Abraham rejoicing with great joy, and she became jealous of Ishmael and said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman will not be heir with my son, Isaac." 5. And the thing was grievous in Abraham's sight, because of his maidservant and because of his son, that he should drive them from him. 6. And *God* said to Abraham, "Let it not be grievous in thy sight, because of the child and because of the bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken to her words and do them; for in Isaac shall thy name and seed be called. 7. But as for the son of this bondwoman I will make him a great nation, because he is of thy seed. 8. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread and a bottle of water, and placed them on the shoulders of Hagar and the child, and sent her away. 9. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba, and the water in the bottle was spent, and the child thirsted, and was not able to go on, and fell down. 10. And his mother took him and cast him under an olive tree, and went and sat her down over against him, at the distance of a bow-shot; for she said, "Let me not see the death of my child," and as she sat she wept. 11. And an angel of God,* one of the holy ones,² said unto her, "Why weepest thou, Hagar? Arise take the child, and hold him in thine hand; for *God* hath heard thy voice, and hath seen the child." 12. And he opened³ her eyes, and she saw a well of water, and she went and filled her bottle with water, and she gave her child to drink, and she arose and went towards the wilderness of Paran. 13. And the child grew and became an archer, and *God* was with him, and his mother took him a wife from among the daughters of Egypt. 14. And she bare him a son, and he called his name Nâbêvôt; for she said, "The Lord was nigh to me when I

¹ Better read with Lat. and LXX. Gen. xxi. 9 "with Isaac."

² Probably a corruption for "from heaven." Cf. Gen. xxi. 17.

³ Emended ABC.

called upon him." 15. And it came to pass in the seventh week, in the first year thereof, in the first month in this jubilee, on the twelfth of this month, there were voices in heaven regarding Abraham, that he had believed all that he had promised him, and that he loved the Lord, and that in all his afflictions he was faithful. 16. And the prince Mastema came and said before God, "Behold, Abraham loves Isaac his son, and he delights in him above all things else; bid him offer him as a burnt-offering on the altar, and thou wilt see if he will do this command, and thou wilt know if he is faithful in everything wherein thou dost try him. 17. And the Lord knew that Abraham was faithful in all his afflictions; for he had tried him through his country and with famine, and had tried him with the wealth of kings, and had tried him again through his wife, when she was torn (from him), and with circumcision; and had tried him through Ishmael and Hagar, his maid-servant, when he sent them away. 18. And in everything wherein he had tried him, he was found faithful, and his soul was not impatient, and he was not slow to act; for he was faithful and a lover of the Lord.

XVIII.—And *God* said to him, "Abraham, Abraham;" and he said, "Behold, here am I." 2. And he said, "Take thy beloved son whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and go unto the high country, and offer him on one of the mountains which I will point out unto thee." 3. And he rose early in the morning and saddled his ass, and took his two young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood of the burnt offering, and he went to the place on the third day, and he saw the place afar off. 4. And he came to a well of water, and he said to his young men, "Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go (yonder), and when we have worshipped we will come again to you." 5. And he took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife, and they went both of them together to that place. 6. And Isaac said to his father, "Father;" and he said, "Here am I, my son." And he said unto him, "Behold the fire, and the knife, and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt-offering, father?" 7. And he said, "*God* will provide for himself a sheep for a burnt-offering, my son." And he drew near to the place which *God* had told him of.¹ 8. And he built an altar, and he placed the wood on the altar, and bound Isaac his son, and placed him on the wood which was upon the altar, and stretched forth his hand to take the knife to slay Isaac his son. 9. And I stood before him, and before the Prince Mastema, and the Lord said, "Bid him not to lay his hand on

¹ Emended with Gen. xxii. 9. MSS. "the place of the mountain of God."

the lad, nor to do anything to him, for I have shown that he fears the Lord." 10. And I called to him from heaven, and said unto him : " Abraham, Abraham ;" and he was terrified and said : " Behold, here am I." 11. And I said unto him : " Lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything to him ; for now I have shown that thou fearest the Lord, and hast not withheld thy son, thy firstborn son, from me." 12. And the Prince Mastema was confounded ; and Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and beheld a ram caught* in the thicket¹ by his horns, and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it for a burnt-offering in the stead of his son. 13. And Abraham called that place " The Lord seeth," so that it is said " in the mount, The Lord seeth": that is Mount Sion. 14. And the Lord called Abraham by name a second time from heaven, as he had appointed² us to speak to him in the name of the Lord. 15. And he said : " By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thy firstborn son, from me, whom thou lovest, that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is on the seashore, and thy seed shall inherit the gates³ of its enemies. 16. And in thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice, and I have shown to all that thou art faithful unto me in all that I have said unto thee : go in peace." 17. And Abraham went to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba, and Abraham dwelt by the well of the oath. 18. And he celebrated this festival every year, seven days with joy, and he called it the festival of the Lord after the seven days during which he went and returned in peace. 19. And accordingly has it been ordained and written on the heavenly tables regarding Israel and its seed that they should observe this festival seven days with the* joy of festival.⁴

XIX.—And in the first year of the first week in the forty-second jubilee, Abraham returned and dwelt opposite Hebron, that is Qarjât-ârbâq, two weeks of years. 2. And in the first year of the third week of this jubilee the days of the life of Sarah were accomplished, and she died in Kêbrôn. 3. And Abraham went to mourn over her and bury her, and we tried him [to see] if his spirit were patient and he were not indignant in the words of his mouth ; and he was found patient in this, and was not disturbed. 4. For in patience of spirit he conversed with the children of Heth, to the intent that they should

¹ Emended with Gen. xxii. 13.

² Emended.

³ Literally " cities," but LXX. renders ἑπτὰ πόλεις.

⁴ The Lat. has *in laetitia gaudentes*. There is some corruption.

give him a place in which to bury his dead. 5. And the Lord gave him grace before all who saw him, and he besought in gentleness the sons of Heth, and they gave him the land of the double cave over against Mamre, that is Kêbrôn, for four hundred¹ pieces of silver. 6. And they besought him, saying, "Let us give it to thee for nothing"; but he would not take it from their hands for nothing, for he gave the price for the place, the money in full, and he bowed down before them twice, and after this he buried his dead in the double cave. 7. And all the days of the life of Sarah were one hundred and twenty-seven years, that is, two jubilees and four weeks and one year : these are the days of the years of the life of Sarah. 8. This is the tenth trial wherewith Abraham was tried, and he was found faithful, patient in spirit. 9. And he said not a single word regarding the rumour in the land how that *God* said that he would give it to him and to his seed after him, and he begged a place there to bury his dead ; for he was found faithful, and was recorded on the heavenly tables as the friend of God. 10. And in the fourth year thereof he took a wife for his son Isaac, and her name was Rebecca, the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor, the brother of Abraham, the sister of Laban and daughter of Bethuel ; and Bethuel² was the son of Mêlcâ, who was the wife of Nahor, the brother of Abraham. 11. And Abraham took to himself a third wife, and her name was Keturah, from among the daughters of his household servants, for Hagar had died before Sarah. 12. And she bare him six sons, Zanbar, and Jâksen, and Mâdâi, and Mâdân, and Ijasboq, and Sêhîjâ, in the second week of years. 13. And in the sixth week, in the second year thereof, Rebecca bare to Isaac two sons, Jacob and Esau, and Jacob was a smooth³ and upright man, and Esau was fierce, a man of the field, and hairy, and Jacob dwelt in tents. 14. And the youths grew, and Jacob learned to write ; but Esau did not learn, for he was a man of the field and a hunter, and he learnt war, and all his deeds were fierce. 15. And Abraham loved Jacob, but Isaac loved Esau. 16. And Abraham saw the deeds of Esau, and he knew that in Jacob should his name and his seed be called ; and he called Rebecca, and gave commandment regarding Jacob, for he saw that she too loved Jacob much more than Esau. 17. And he said unto her : "My daughter, watch over my son Jacob, for he shall be in my stead on the earth, and for a blessing in the midst of the children of men, and for the glory of the whole seed of Shem. 18. For I know that the Lord hath chosen him to be a peculiar⁴ people unto himself, above all

¹ Emended from "forty."

² Emended.

³ Emended.

⁴ Restored from Deut. vii. 6. All MSS. corrupt.

peoples¹ that are upon the face of the earth. 19. And behold, Isaac my son loves Esau more than Jacob, but I see that thou truly lovest Jacob. 20. Add still further to thy goodness to him, and let thine eyes be upon him in love ; for he shall be a blessing unto us on the earth from henceforth unto all generations of the earth. 21. Let thy hands be strong, and let thy heart rejoice in thy son Jacob ; for I have loved him far beyond all my sons. He will be blessed for ever, and his seed will fill the whole earth. 22. If a man can number the sand of the earth, his seed also will be numbered. 23. And all the blessings wherewith the Lord hath blessed me and my seed shall belong to Jacob and his seed alway. 24. And in his seed shall my name be blessed, and the name of my fathers, Shem, and Noah, and Enoch, and Mahalalel, and Enos, and Seth, and Adam. 25. And these shall serve to lay the foundations of heaven, and to strengthen the earth, and to renew all the luminaries which are in the firmament." 26. And he called Jacob before the eyes of Rebecca his mother, and kissed him, and blessed him, and said : 27. "Jacob, my beloved son, whom my soul loveth, may God bless thee from above the firmament, and may he give thee all the blessings wherewith he blessed Adam, and Enoch, and Noah, and Shem ; and all the things of which he told me, and all things which he promised to give me, may he cause to cleave to thee and to thy seed for ever, according to the days of heaven above the earth. 28. And the spirits of Mastema will not rule over thee or over thy seed to turn thee from the Lord, who is thy God from henceforth for ever. 29. And may the Lord God be a father unto thee and thou the first-born son, and the people alway. Go in peace, my son." 30. And they both went forth together from Abraham. 31. And Rebecca loved Jacob, with all her heart and with all her soul, very much more than Esau ; but Isaac loved Esau much more than Jacob.

XX.—And in the forty-second jubilee, in the first year of the seventh week, Abraham called Ishmael, and his twelve sons, and Isaac and his two sons, and the six sons of Keturah, and their sons. 2. And he commanded them that they should observe the path of the Lord ; that they should work righteousness, and love each his neighbour, and act on this manner amongst all men² ; that they should each so walk with regard to them as to do judgment and righteousness on the earth. 3. That they should circumcise their sons, according to the covenant which he had made with them, and not deviate to the right hand or the left of all the paths which the Lord had commanded us ; and that we should keep ourselves from all fornication and uncleanness, and renounce from amongst us all uncleanness and fornication.

¹ Restored from Latin.² Emended.

4. And if any woman or maid commit fornication amongst you, burn her with fire, and let them not commit fornication with her after their eyes and after their heart ; and let them not take to themselves wives from the daughters of Caanan ; for the seed of Canaan would be rooted out of the whole land. 5. And he told them of the judgment of the giants, and the judgment of the Sodomites, how they had been judged on account of their wickedness, and had died on account of their fornication, and uncleanness, and mutual corruption through fornication. 6. And guard yourselves from all fornication and uncleanness, and from all pollution of sin, lest ye make our name a curse, and your whole life a hissing,¹ and all your sons to be destroyed by the sword, and ye become accursed like Sodom, and all your remnant become as the sons of Gomorrah. 7. I implore you, my sons, love the God of heaven, and cleave ye to all his commandments, and walk not after their idols, and after their uncleannesses. 8. And make not for yourselves molten or graven gods ; for they are vanity, and there is no spirit in them ; for they are work of (men's) hands, and all who trust in them, trust in nothing. Serve them not, nor worship them. 9. But serve ye the most high God, and worship him continually, and hope for his countenance always, and work uprightness and righteousness before him, that he may direct² you and grant you his mercy, and send his rain upon you morning and evening, and bless all your works which ye have wrought upon the earth, and bless thy bread and thy water, and bless the seed of thy womb and the seed of thy land, and the herds of thy cattle, and the flocks of thy sheep. 10. And ye shall be³ for a blessing on the earth, and all nations of the earth shall desire you and bless your sons in my name, that they may be blessed as I am. 11. And he gave to Ishmael and to his sons, and to the sons of Keturah, gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, and he gave everything to Isaac his son. 12. And Ishmael and his sons, and the sons of Keturah and their sons, went together and dwelt from Phârmôn to the entering in of Babylon in all the land which is towards the East, facing the desert. 13. And these mingled with each other, and their name clave⁴ to the Arabs,⁵ and (they are) Ishmaelites (to this day).

XXI.—And in the sixth year of the seventh week of this jubilee Abraham called Isaac his son, and commanded him, saying : “ I am become old, and know not the day of my death, and ⁶ am full

¹ Emended in accordance with Lat.

² Emended with Lat. MSS. “ find pleasure in.”

³ Emended with Latin. MSS. “ thou shalt be.”

⁴ Emended with Latin. MSS. “ was called.”

⁵ Emended with Latin as to case.

⁶ Emended.

of my days. 2. And behold, I am one hundred and seventy-five years old, and throughout all the days of my life I have remembered the Lord, and sought with all my heart to do his will, and to walk uprightly in all his ways. 3. My soul hated idols,¹ and I despised those that served them, and I gave my heart and spirit¹ that I might observe to do the will of him who created me. 4. For he is the living God, and he is holy and faithful, and he is righteous beyond all, and there is with him no accepting of (men's) persons or of gifts; for God is righteous, and executeth judgment on all those who transgress his commandment and despise his covenant. 5. And do thou, my son, observe his commandments and his ordinances and his judgments, and walk not after the abominations and after the graven images and after the molten images. 6. And eat no blood at all of animals or cattle, or of any bird which flies in the heaven. 7. And if thou dost slay a victim as an acceptable peace offering, slay ye it, and pour out its blood upon the altar, and all the fat of the offering offer on the altar with fine flour mingled² with oil, with its drink offering—offer them all together on the altar of burnt offering³; it is a sweet savour before the Lord. 8. And⁴ thou wilt place the fat of the thank offering on the fire which is upon the altar,³ and⁴ the fat which is on the belly, and all the fat upon the intestines and the two kidneys, and all the fat that is upon them, and upon the thighs and liver thou shalt remove,⁵ together with the kidneys. 9. And offer all these for a sweet savour acceptable before the Lord, with its meat offering and with its drink offering, for a sweet savour the food of the offering unto the Lord. 10. And eat its meat on that day and on the second day, and let not the sun on the second day go down upon it till it is eaten, and let nothing be left over for the third day; for it is not acceptable or well pleasing, and⁶ let it no longer be eaten,⁶ and all who eat thereof will bring sin upon themselves; for thus I have found it written in the books of my forefathers, and in the words of Enoch, and in the words of Noah. 11. And with all thy oblations thou shalt offer salt, and let not the salt of the covenant⁷ be lacking in all thy oblations before the Lord. 12. And as regards the wood of the sacrifices, beware lest thou bring (other) wood for the altar in addition to these: cypress, dêfrâu,⁸ almond, pine, fir,

¹ Supplied from Latin Version, being lost in Eth. through homoio-teleuton. ² Emended. ³ Emended with Latin.

⁴ Emended with Latin MSS. As. ⁵ Emended in accordance with Lat. and Lev. iii. 10. ⁶ Emended.

⁷ Emended with Lev. ii. 13, from "the covenant of salt."

⁸ A kind of fir.

cedar, savin, palm,¹ olive, myrrh, laurel, and citron,² juniper,³ and balsam. 13. And of these kinds of wood lay upon the altar under the sacrifice, after examining its appearance, and do not lay (thereon) any split or dark wood, (but) hard and clean,⁴ without fault, a sound and new growth; and do not lay (thereon) old wood, for its fragrance is gone, for there is no longer fragrance in it as before. 14. Besides these kinds of wood there is none other that thou shalt place (on the altar), for the fragrance is diverse, and the smell of the fragrance goes up to heaven. 15. Observe this commandment and do it, my son, that thou mayst be upright in all thy deeds. 16. And at all times be clean in thy body, and wash thyself with water before thou approachest to offer on the altar, and wash thy hands and thy feet before thou drawest near to the altar; and when thou art done sacrificing, return and wash thy hands and thy feet. 17. And let no blood appear upon you nor upon your clothes; be on thy guard, my son, against blood, be on thy guard exceedingly; bury it in the earth. 18. And do not eat any blood, for it is the soul; eat no blood whatever. 19. And take no gifts for the blood of man, lest it be shed with impunity, without judgment; for it is the blood that is shed that causes the earth to sin, and the earth⁵ cannot be cleansed from the blood of man save by the blood of him who shed it. 20. And take no present or gift for the blood of man, (or) blood for blood, that thou mayest be accepted⁶ before the Lord, the most high God; for he is the defence of the good, and that thou mayest be preserved from all evil, and saved from every kind of death. 21. I see, my son, all the works of the children of men that they are sin and wickedness, and all their deeds are uncleanness and an abomination and a pollution, and there is no righteousness with them. 22. Beware, lest thou shouldest walk in their ways and tread in their paths, and sin a sin unto death before the most high God, else he will hide his face from thee, and give thee back into the hands of thy transgression, and root thee out of the land, and thy seed likewise from under heaven, and thy name and thy seed will perish from the whole earth. 23. Turn away from all their deeds and all their uncleanness, and observe the ordinance of the most high God, and do his will, and be upright in all things. 24. And he will bless thee in all thy deeds, and will raise up from thee a plant of righteousness through all the earth, throughout

¹ I have taken *tânâq* as a corruption of תָּנִיךְ.

² I have taken *qêdâr* as a corrupt transliteration of κίτριον or of κερία, and omitted *zasemû* as corrupt.

³ Arbât, a corrupt transliteration of ἄρκευθος, equal to juniper tree.

⁴ Emended.

⁵ Emended after Dillmann.

⁶ Emended.

all generations of the earth. And my name and thy name will not be forgotten (lit. 'kept silent') under heaven for ever. 25. Go, my son, in peace. May the most high God, my God and thy God, strengthen thee to do his will, and may he bless all thy seed and the residue of thy seed for the generations for ever, with all righteous blessings, so that thou mayest be a blessing on all the earth." 26. And he went out from him rejoicing.

XXII.—And it came to pass in the first week in the forty-fourth jubilee, in the second year, that is the year in which Abraham died, that Isaac and Ishmael came from the well of the oath to celebrate the feast of weeks—that is, the feast of the first fruits of the harvest—to Abraham, their father, and Abraham rejoiced because his two sons had come. 2. For Isaac had many possessions in Beersheba, and Isaac was wont to go and see his possessions and to return to his father. 3. And in those days Ishmael came to see his father, and they both¹ came together, and Isaac offered a sacrifice for a burnt offering, and presented it on the altar of his father which he had made in Kêbrôn. 4. And he offered a thankoffering and made a feast of joy before Ishmael, his brother : and Rebecca made new cakes from the new grain, and gave them to Jacob, her son, to take them to Abraham, his father, from the first fruits of the land, that he might eat and bless the Creator of all things before he died. 5. And Isaac, too, sent by the hand of Jacob a best thank offering, that Abraham might eat and drink. 6. And he eat and drank, and blessed the Most High God, who hath created heaven and earth, who hath made all the fat things of the earth, and given them to the children of men that they might eat and drink and bless their Creator. 7. "And now I give thanks unto thee, my God, because thou hast caused me to see this day : behold, I am one hundred three score and fifteen years, an old man and full of days, and all my days have been unto me peace. 8. The sword of the adversary has not overcome me in all that thou hast given me and my children all the days of my life until this day. 9. My God, may thy mercy and thy peace be upon thy servant, and upon the seed of his sons, that they may be to thee a chosen nation and an inheritance from amongst all the nations of the earth from henceforth unto all the days of the generations of the earth, unto all the ages." 10. And he called Jacob and said : "My son Jacob, may the God of all bless thee and strengthen thee to do righteousness, and his will before him, and may he choose thee and thy seed that ye may become a people for his inheritance according to his will

¹ Emended with Lat. MSS. "all."

always. And do thou, my son, Jacob, draw near and kiss me." 11. And he drew near and kissed him, and he said: "Blessed be my son Jacob, and all his sons, unto the Lord Most High, unto all the ages: may the Lord give thee a seed of righteousness; and through thy sons may he sanctify (thee) in the midst of the whole earth; may nations serve thee and all the nations bow themselves before thy seed. 12. Be strong in the presence of men and exercise (lit. 'exercising') authority over all the seed of Seth. Then thy ways will be justified, and the ways of thy sons, so that they will become a holy nation. 13. May the Most High God give them all the blessings wherewith he has blessed me and wherewith he blessed Noah and Adam; may they rest on the sacred head (lit. "head of sanctification") of thy seed from generation to generation for ever. 14. And may he cleanse thee from unrighteousness and impurity,¹ that he may forgive all thy transgressions and¹ thy sins of ignorance, and may he strengthen thee, and bless thee, and mayest thou inherit the whole earth. 15. And he shall renew his covenant with thee that thou mayest be to him a nation for his inheritance for all the ages, and that he may be to thee and to thy seed a God in truth and righteousness throughout all the days of the earth. 16. And do thou, my son Jacob, remember my words and observe the commandments of Abraham, thy father: separate thyself from the nations, and eat not with them, and do not according to their works and become not their associate; for their works are unclean, and all their ways are a pollution and an abomination and uncleanness. 17. They offer their sacrifices to the dead and they worship evil spirits, and they eat over the graves, and all their works are vanity and nothingness. 18. They have no heart to understand and their eyes do not see what their works are, and how they err in saying to a piece of wood: 'Thou art my God,' and to a stone: 'Thou art my Lord and thou art my deliverer,' and they have no heart. 19. And as for thee, my son Jacob, may the Most High God help thee and the God of heaven bless thee and turn thee away from their uncleanness and from all their error. 20. Be thou ware, my son Jacob, of taking a wife from any of the seed of the daughters of Canaan; for all his seed is to be rooted out of the land. 21. For, owing to the transgression of Ham, Canaan erred, and all his seed shall be destroyed from off the earth, and all the residue thereof, and none springing from him will escape on the day of judgment. 22. And as for all the worshippers of idols and the adversaries, there will be no hope for them in the land of the living; for they will descend into Sheol and into the place of judgment will they go, and there will be no remembrance

¹ Emended in accordance with Lat.

of them on the earth ; as the children of Sodom were taken away from the earth so will all those who worship idols be taken away. 23. Fear not, my son Jacob, and be not dismayed, O son of Abraham : may the Most High God preserve thee from destruction, and from all the paths of error may he deliver thee. 24. This house have I built for myself that I might put my name upon it in the earth : it is given to thee and to thy seed for ever, and it will be named the house of Abraham : it is given to thee and to thy seed for ever ; for thou wilt build my house and establish my name before God for ever ; thy seed and thy name will stand throughout all generations of the earth." 25. And he ceased giving him commands and blessing him. 26. And the two lay together on one bed, and Jacob slept in the bosom of Abraham, his father's father, and he kissed him seven times, and his affection and his heart rejoiced over him. 27. And he blessed him with all his heart and said : "The Most High God, the God of all, and Creator of all, who brought me forth from Ur of the Chaldees, that he might give me this land to inherit it for ever, and that I might establish a holy seed—may the Most High be blessed for ever." 28. And he blessed Jacob and said : "My son, in whom all my heart and my affection rejoice,¹ may thy grace and thy mercy be high over him and over his seed alway. 29. And do not forsake him, nor set him at nought from henceforth unto the days of eternity, and may thine eyes be open upon him and upon his seed, that thou mayst preserve him, and bless him, and mayest sanctify him as a nation for thine inheritance ; 30. And bless him with all thy blessings from henceforth unto all the days of eternity, and renew thy covenant and thy grace with him and with his seed according to all thy will unto all the generations of the earth."

XXIII.—And he placed two fingers of Jacob on his eyes, and he blessed the God of gods, and he covered his face and stretched out his feet and slept the sleep of eternity, and was gathered to his fathers. 2. And all this time Jacob was lying in his bosom, and knew not that Abraham, his father's father, was dead. 3. And Jacob awoke from his sleep, and behold Abraham was cold as ice, and he said : "Father, father" ; but there was none that spake, and he knew that he was dead. 4. And he arose from his bosom and ran and told Rebecca, his mother ; and Rebecca went to Isaac in the night, and told him ; and they went together, and Jacob with them, and a lamp was in his hand, and when they had gone in they found Abraham lying dead. 5. And Isaac fell on the face of his father, and wept and kissed him. 6. And the voices were heard in the house of Abraham,

¹ Corrupt passage.

and Ishmael his son arose, and came to Abraham his father, and wept over Abraham his father, he and all the house of Abraham, and they wept with a great weeping. 7. And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the double cave, near Sarah his wife, and they wept for him forty days, all the men of his house, and Isaac and Ishmael, and all their sons, and all the sons of Keturah in their places; and *the days of weeping¹ for Abraham were ended. 8. And he lived three jubilees and four weeks of years, one hundred and seventy-five years, and completed the days of his life, and he was old and full of days. 9. For the days of the forefathers [of their life]² were nineteen jubilees; and after the Flood they began to grow less than nineteen jubilees, and to grow old quickly; and the days of their lives began to decrease³ by reason of manifold tribulation and the wickedness of their ways, with the exception of Abraham. 10. For Abraham was perfect in all his deeds with the Lord, and well-pleasing in righteousness all the days of his life; and behold, he did not complete four jubilees in his life, until he grew old by reason of the wickedness, and was full of his days. 11. And all the generations which will arise from this time until the day of the great judgment will grow old quickly, before they complete two jubilees, and their knowledge will pass away from their spirit⁴ [and all their knowledge will vanish away].⁵ 12. And in those days, if a man live a jubilee and a-half of years, they will say regarding him: "He has lived long, and the greater part of his days are pain and sorrow and tribulation, and there is no peace: 13. For calamity follows on calamity, and wound on wound, and tribulation on tribulation, and evil tidings on evil tidings, and illness on illness, and all evil judgments such as these, one with another, illness and overthrow,⁶ and snow and frost and ice, and fever, and chills,⁷ and torpor, and famine, and death, and sword, and captivity, and all kinds of calamities and pains." 14. And all these will come on an evil generation, which has transgressed on the earth; and their works are uncleanness and fornication, and pollution and abominations.⁸ 15. Then they will say: "The days of the forefathers were many (even), unto a thousand years, and were good; but, behold, the days of our life, if a man has lived many, are seventy years, and, if he is strong, eighty years, and those evil, and there is no peace in the days of this evil generation." 16. And in that generation the sons will convict their fathers and their elders of sin and unrighteousness, and the words of their mouth and the great wickednesses which they perpetrate, and concerning their forsaking the

¹ Emended. ² Apparently a gloss. ³ Emended by means of Lat.

⁴ Emended with Lat.

⁵ A gloss, not found in Lat.

⁶ Emended with Lat.

⁷ So Lat.; Eth. uncertain.

⁸ Emended.

covenant which the Lord made between them and him, that they should observe and do all his commandments and his ordinances and all his laws, without departing either to the right hand or the left. 17. For all have done evil, and every mouth speaks iniquity, and all their works are an uncleanness and an abomination, and all their ways are pollution, uncleanness, and destruction. 18. Behold the earth will be destroyed on account of all their works, and there will be no seed of the vine, and no oil ; for their works are altogether faithless, and they will all perish together, beasts and cattle and birds, and all the fish of the sea, on account of the children of men. 19. And they will strive one with another, the young with the old, and the old with the young, the poor with the rich, and the lowly with the great, and the beggar with the prince, on account of the law and the covenant ; for they have forgotten his commandment, and the covenant, and the feasts, and the months, and the Sabbaths, and the jubilees, and all judgments. 20. And they will stand with bows and¹ swords and war to turn them back into the way ; but they will not return until much blood has been shed on the earth, one upon another. 21. And those who are saved will not return from their wickedness on the path of righteousness, for they will all exalt themselves to deceit and wealth, that they may each take all that is his neighbours's, and they will name² the great name, but not in truth and not in righteousness, and they will defile the holy of holies with their uncleanness and the corruption of their pollution. 22. And a great punishment will befall the deeds of this generation from the Lord, and he will give them over to the sword and to judgment and to captivity, and to be plundered and devoured. 23. And he will wake up against them the sinners of the Gentiles, who will show them no mercy or grace, and who respect the person of none, neither old nor young, nor anyone, for they are wicked and powerful, so that they are more wicked than all the children of men. And they will use violence against Israel and transgression against Jacob, and much blood will be shed upon the earth, and there will be none to gather it and none to bury. 24. In those days they will cry aloud, and call and pray that they may be saved from the hand of the sinful Gentiles ; but none will be saved. 25. And the heads of the children will be white with grey hair, and a child of three weeks will appear as old as a man of one hundred years, and their stature will be destroyed by tribulation and oppression. 26. And in those days the children will begin to study the laws, and to seek the commandments, and to return to the path of righteousness. 27. And the days of the children of men³ will begin to grow many, and increase from generation to generation and day to day, till their

¹ Restored from Lat.² Emended with Lat.³ Emended from A.

days draw nigh to one thousand years, and to a greater number of years than (before) were their days. 28. And there will be no old man nor one who is not¹ satisfied with his days, for all will be (as) children and youths. 29. And all their days they will complete in peace and in joy, and they will live, and there will be no Satan nor any evil destroyer ; for all their days will be days of blessing and healing. 30. And at that time the Lord will heal his servants, and they will rise up and see great peace and and drive out his² adversary, and the righteous will see and be thankful, and rejoice with joy for ever and ever, and will see all their judgments and all their curses on their enemies. 31. And their bones will rest in the earth and their spirits will have much joy, and they will know that it is the Lord who executes judgment, and shows mercy to hundreds and thousands of all that love him. 32. And do thou, Moses, write down these words ; for thus are they written, and they have recorded (them) on the heavenly tables for a testimony for the generations for ever.

XXIV.—And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that the Lord blessed Isaac his son, and he arose from Kêbrôn and went and dwelt at the well of the vision in the first year of the third week of this jubilee, seven years. 2. And in the first year of the fourth week a famine began in the land, besides the first famine, which had been in the days of Abraham. 3. And Jacob sod lentil pottage, and Esau came from the field hungry. And he said to Jacob his brother : “ Give me of this red³ pottage.” And Jacob said to him : “ Give up to me thy pre-eminence of birthright and I will give thee bread, and also some of this lentil pottage.” 4. And Esau said in his heart : “ I shall die ; of what profit to me is this birthright ? ” And he said to Jacob : “ I give it to thee.” 5. And Jacob said : “ Swear to me, this day,” and he swore unto him. 6. And Jacob gave his brother Esau bread and pottage, and he eat till he was satisfied, and Esau despised his birthright ; for this reason was his name called Edom, on account of the red³ pottage which Jacob gave him for his birthright. 7. And Jacob became the elder, and Esau was brought down from his pre-eminence. 8. And the famine was over the land, and Isaac departed to go down into Egypt in the second year of this week, and went down to the king of the Philistines to Gerar, unto Abimelech. 9. And the Lord appeared unto him and said unto him : “ Go not down into Egypt ; dwell in the land that I shall tell thee of, and sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee and bless thee. 10. For to thee and to thy seed will I give all this land, and I will establish my oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father, and I will multiply thy seed as the

¹ Restored from Is. lxxv. 20.

² “ Their,” CD.

³ Emended.

stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all this land. 11. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thy father obeyed my voice, and kept my charge and my commandments, and my laws, and my ordinances, and my covenant; and now obey my voice and dwell in this land." 12. And he dwelt in Gerar three weeks of years. 13. And Abimelech charged concerning him, and concerning all that was his, saying: "Any man that shall touch him or aught that is his shall surely die." 14. And Isaac waxed strong in Philistia, and he got many possessions, oxen and sheep and camels and asses and a great household.¹ 15. And he sowed in the land of Philistia and brought in a hundred-fold, and Isaac became exceedingly great, and the Philistines envied him. 16. Now all the wells which the servants of Abraham had dug during the life of Abraham, the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham, and filled them with earth. 17. And Abimelech said unto Isaac: "Go from us, for thou art much mightier than we"; and Isaac departed thence in the first year of the seventh week, and sojourned in the valley of Gêrârôn. 18. And they digged again² the wells of water which the servants of Abraham, his father, had digged, and which the Philistines had closed after the death of Abraham his father, and he called their names as Abraham his father had named them. 19. And the servants of Isaac dug a well in the valley, and found living water, and the shepherds of Gêrârôn strove with the shepherds of Isaac, saying: "The water³ is ours"; and Isaac called the name of the well "Perversity," because they had been perverse with them. 20. And they dug a second well, and they strove for that also, and he called its name "Enmity."⁴ And he arose from thence and they digged another well, and for that they strove not, and he called the name of it "Room," and Isaac said: "Now the Lord hath made room for us, and we have increased in the land." 21. And he went up from thence to the well of the oath, in the first year of the first week in the forty-fourth jubilee. 22. And the Lord appeared to him that night, on the new moon of the first month, and said unto him: "I am the God of Abraham thy father; fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee and will surely multiply thy seed as the sand of the earth, for the sake of Abraham my servant." 23. And he built an altar there, which Abraham his father had first built, and he called upon the name of the Lord, and he offered sacrifice to the God of Abraham his father. 24. And they digged a well and they found

¹ The translation follows the original עֲבָדָה and its Latin rendering *ministerium* rather than the loose Ethiopian one = "possessions."

² The Ethiopic presupposes exactly the same text as in Gen. xxiv. 18.

³ Emended with Latin.

⁴ Emended from Lat.

living water. 25. And the servants of Isaac digged another well and did not find water, and they went and told Isaac that they had not found water, and Isaac said : " I have sworn this day to the Philistines and this word has been announced to us." 26. And he called the name of this place " the well of the oath " ; for there he had sworn to Abimelech and Akôzat his friend and Phîkôl the prefect of his host.¹ 27. And Isaac knew that day that under constraint he had sworn to make peace with them. 28. And Isaac on that day cursed the Philistines and said : " Cursed be the Philistines unto the day of wrath and indignation from the midst of all nations ; may the Lord make them a derision and a curse and an object of wrath and indignation in the hands of the sinful nations and in the hands of the Hittites. 29. And whoever escapes the sword of the enemy and the Hittites, may the righteous nation root out in judgment from under heaven ; for they will be the enemies and foes of my children throughout their generations² upon the earth. 30. And no remnant will be left to them, nor one that is saved on the day of the wrath of judgment ; for for destruction and rooting out and expulsion from the earth is the whole seed of the Philistines (reserved), and there will no longer be for these³ Caphtorim a name remaining or a seed on the earth. 31. For though he ascend unto heaven, thence will he be brought down, and whithersoever he flee on earth, thence will he be dragged forth, and though he hide himself amongst the nations, even from thence will he be rooted out ; and though he descend into Sheol, there also shall his condemnation be great, and there also he will have no peace. 32. And if he go into captivity, in the hands of those that seek his life, they will slay him on the way, and neither name nor seed will be left to him on all the earth ; for into eternal malediction will he depart." 33. And thus is it written and engraved concerning him on the heavenly tables, to do unto him on the day of judgment, so that he may be rooted out of the earth.

XXV.—And in the second year of this week in this jubilee, Rebecca called Jacob her son, and spake unto him, saying : " My son, do not take to thee a wife of the daughters of Canaan, as Esau, thy brother, who took him two wives of the daughters of Canaan, and they have embittered my soul with all their unclean deeds : for all their deeds are fornication and lust, and there is no righteousness with them, for [their deeds] are evil. 2. And I, my son, love thee exceedingly, and my heart and my affection bless thee every hour of the day and watch of the night. 3. And now, my son, hearken to my voice, and do the will of thy mother, and do not take to thee a wife of the

¹ Emended from Lat. and Gen. xxvi, 26.

² Emended from Lat.

³ Emended from Lat.

daughters of this land, save of the house of my father, and save of my father's family. Thou shalt take thee a wife of the house of my father, and the Most High God will bless thee, and thy children will be a righteous generation and a holy seed." 4. And then spake Jacob to Rebecca, his mother, and said: "Behold, mother, I am nine¹ weeks of years old, and I neither know nor have I touched any woman, nor have I betrothed myself to any, nor even thought of taking a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 5. For I remember, mother, the words of Abraham, our father, for he commanded me not to take a wife of the daughters of Canaan, but to take me a wife from the seed of my father's house and from my kindred. 6. I have heard before that daughters have been born to Laban, thy brother, and I have set my heart on them to take a wife from amongst them. 7. And for this reason I have guarded myself in my spirit against sinning or being corrupted in all my ways throughout all the days of my life; for with regard to lust and fornication, Abraham, my father, gave me many commands. 8. And, despite all that he has commanded me, these two and twenty years my brother has striven with me, and spoken frequently to me, saying: 'My brother, take to wife a sister of my two wives; but I refused to do as he has done. 9. I swear before thee, mother, that all the days of my life I will not take me a wife from the daughters of the seed of Canaan, and I will not act wickedly as my brother has done. 10. Fear not mother; be assured that I shall do thy will and walk in uprightness, and not corrupt my ways for ever.'" 11. And thereupon she lifted up her face to heaven and extended the fingers of her hands, and opened her mouth and blessed the Most High God, who had created the heaven and the earth, and she gave him thanks and praise. 12. And she said: "Blessed be the Lord God, and may his holy name be blessed for ever and ever, who has given me Jacob as a pure son and a holy seed; for he is thine, and thine shall his seed be continually and throughout all the generations for evermore. 13. Bless him, O Lord, and place in my mouth the blessing of righteousness, that I may bless him." 14. And at that hour, when the spirit of righteousness descended into her mouth, she placed both her hands on the head of Jacob, and said: 15. "Blessed art thou, Lord of righteousness and God of the ages; and may he bless thee beyond all the generations of men. May he give thee, my son, a path of righteousness, and reveal righteousness to thy seed. 16. And may he make thy sons many during thy life, and may they arise to the number of the months of the year, and may their sons become many and great; may their numbers be more than the stars of heaven and than the sand of the sea. 17. And may he give them this goodly

¹ So BC. A reads "seven"; D "two."

land, as he said he would give it to Abraham and to his seed after him alway, and may they hold it [as] a possession for ever. 18. And may I see for thee, my son, blessed children in this my life, and a holy seed may all thy seed be. 19. And as the womb of thy parent gave thee rest . . . ¹ during her life, thus my affection blesses thee, and my breasts bless thee, and my mouth and my tongue praise thee greatly. 20. Increase and spread over the earth, and may thy seed be perfect in heavenly and earthly joy for ever; and may thy seed rejoice, and on the great day of peace may it have peace. 21. And may thy name and thy seed endure to all the ages, and may the Most High God be their God, and may the God of righteousness dwell with them, and by them may his sanctuary be built unto all the ages. 22. Blessed be he that blesseth thee, and all flesh that curseth thee falsely may it be cursed." 23. And she kissed him, and said to him; "May the Lord of the world love thee as the heart of thy mother and her affection rejoice in thee and bless thee." And she ceased from blessing him.

XXVI.—And in the seventh year of this week Isaac called Esau, his elder son, and said unto him: "I am old, my son, and behold my eyes are dim, so that I cannot see, and I know not the day of my death. 2. And now take thy hunting weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and hunt the venison,² my son, and make me savoury meat, such as my soul loveth, and bring it to me that I may eat, and that my soul may bless thee before I die." 3. But Rebecca heard Isaac speaking to Esau. 4. And Esau went forth early to the field to hunt for venison,² and bring home to his father. 5. And Rebecca called Jacob, her son, and said unto him: "Behold, I heard Isaac, thy father, speak unto Esau, thy brother, saying: 'Hunt for me, and make me savoury meat, and bring (it) to me that I may eat and bless thee before the Lord before I die.' 6. And now, my son, obey my voice in that which I command thee: Go to thy flock and fetch me two good kids of the goats, and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loves, and thou shalt bring (it) to thy father that he may eat and bless thee before the Lord before he die, and thou shalt be blessed." 7. And Jacob said to Rebecca his mother: "Mother, I will not withhold anything which my father would eat, and which would please him: only I fear, my mother, that he will recognise my voice and wish to touch me. 8. And thou knowest that I am smooth, and Esau, my brother, is hairy, and I shall seem to him as an evildoer, and as doing a deed which he had not commanded me, and he will be wroth with me, and I shall bring upon myself a curse, and not a blessing." 9. And Rebecca, his mother, said unto him: "Upon me be thy curse,

¹ Unintelligible.

² See ver. 28 note.

my son, only obey my voice." 10. And Jacob obeyed the voice of Rebecca, his mother, and went and fetched two good and fat kids of the goats, and brought them to his mother, and his mother made them [savoury meat] such as he loved. 11. And Rebecca took the goodly raiment of Esau, her elder son, which was with her in the house, and she clothed Jacob, her younger son, with them, and she put the skins of the kids upon his hands, and on the exposed parts of his neck. 12. And she gave the meat and the bread which she had prepared into the hand of her son Jacob. 13. And Jacob went in to his father and said: "I am thy son: I have done according as thou badest me: arise and sit and eat of my venison (lit. what I have caught), father, that thy soul may bless me." 14. And Isaac said to his son: "How hast thou found so quickly, my son?" 15. And Jacob said: "Because the Lord¹ thy God sent me good speed."² 16. And Isaac said unto him: "Come near, that I may feel thee, my son, if thou art my son Esau or not." 17. And Jacob went near to Isaac, his father, and he felt him and said: 18. "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau," and he discerned him not, because it was a dispensation from heaven to remove his power of perception (lit. "spirit"); and Isaac discerned not, for his hands were hairy as his brother³ Esau's, so that he blessed him. 19. And he said: "Art thou indeed my son Esau?" and he said: "I am thy son": and he said, "Bring near to me that I may eat of thy venison (lit. 'that which thou hast caught'), my son, that my soul may bless thee." 20. And he brought near to him, and he did eat, and he brought him wine and he drank. 21. And Isaac, his father, said unto him: "Come near and kiss me, my son." And he came near and kissed him. 22. And he smelled the smell of his raiment, and he blessed him and said: "Behold, the smell of my son is as the smell of a full⁴ field which the Lord hath blessed. 23. And may the Lord⁴ give thee of the dew of heaven and of the fat⁵ of the earth, and may he give thee plenty of corn and oil: let nations serve thee, and peoples bow down to thee. 24. Be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee; and may all the blessings wherewith the Lord hath blessed me and blessed Abraham, my father, be imparted to thee and to thy seed for ever: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be every one that blesseth thee." 25. And it came to pass as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing his son Jacob, and Jacob had gone forth from Isaac his father [(and) had hidden himself]⁶, that Esau, his brother, came

¹ Supplied from Lat. ² Emended with Lat. ³ Added from Lat.

⁴ I omit "and multiply thee" of MSS. as an interpolation.

⁵ Lit. "dew," but this word not infrequently=πύρρος.

⁶ Seems a gloss.

in from his hunting. 26. And he also made savoury meat, and brought (it) to his father, and said unto his father: "Let my father arise, and eat of my venison that thy soul may bless me." 27. And Isaac his father, said unto him: "Who art thou?" And he said unto him: "I am thy first born, thy son Esau: I have done as thou hast commanded me." 28. And Isaac was very greatly astonished, and said: "Who is he that hath taken venison¹ and brought (it) to me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him: (and) he shall be blessed, and all his seed for ever." 29. And it came to pass when Esau heard the words of his father Isaac that he cried with an exceeding great and bitter cry, and said unto his father: "Bless me, even me also, father." And he said unto him: "Thy brother came with guile, and hath taken away thy blessing." 30. And he said: "Now I know why² his name is named Jacob: behold, he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright, and now he hath taken away my blessing." 31. And he said: "Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me, father?" and Isaac answered and said unto Esau: "Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants, and with plenty of corn and wine and oil have I strengthened him: and what now shall I do for thee, my son?" 32. And Esau said to Isaac, his father: "Hast thou but one blessing, father? Bless me, even me also, father:" and Esau lifted up his voice and wept. 33. And Isaac answered and said unto him: "Behold, of the fatness of the earth shall be thy dwelling, and of the dew of heaven from above. 34. And by thy sword shalt thou live, and thou shalt serve thy brother. And it shall come to pass when thou art become great, and hast shaken his yoke from off thy neck, thou wilt commit every sin unto death, and thy seed will be rooted out from under heaven." 35. And Esau threatened Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him, and he said in his heart: "May the days of mourning for my father now come, so that I may slay my brother Jacob."

XXVII.—And the words of Esau, her elder son, were told to Rebecca in a dream,³ and Rebecca sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him: 2. "Behold Esau thy brother will take vengeance by killing thee. 3. Now, therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise and flee thou to Laban, my brother, to Haran, and tarry with him a few days until thy brother's anger turns

¹ Lit. "That hunted and took prey," an imperfect attempt to render נִצַּח־הַצֹּדִים by ὁ θηρώσας θήρας. Cf. verses 2, 4.

² False text, owing probably to corruption of ἡ δικάωσις into οἶδα ὤς. Hence read, "Is not his name rightly named," etc. ? ³ Omit with A.

away, and he remove his anger from thee, and forget all that thou hast done ; then I will send and fetch thee from thence." 4. And Jacob said : " I am not afraid ; if he wishes to kill me, I will kill him." 5. But she said unto him : " Let me not be bereft of both my sons on one day." 6. And Jacob said to Rebecca his mother : " Behold, thou knowest that my father has become old, and does not see because his eyes are dull, and if I leave him it will be evil in his eyes because I leave him and go away from you, and my father will be angry, and will curse me. I will not go ; when he sends me, only then will I go." 7. And Rebecca said to Jacob : " I will go in and speak to him, and he will send thee away." 8. And Rebecca went in and said to Isaac : " I loathe my life because of the two daughters of Heth, whom Esau has taken him as wives ; and if Jacob take a wife from among the daughters of the land such as these, for what purpose do I further live ; for the daughters of Canaan are evil." 9. And Isaac called Jacob his son and blessed him, and admonished him and said unto him : 10. " Do not take unto thee a wife of any of the daughters of Canaan ; arise and go to Mesopotamia, to the house of Bethuel, thy mother's father, and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban, thy mother's brother. 11. And God Almighty bless thee and increase and multiply thee that thou mayest become a company of nations, and give thee the blessings of my father Abraham, to thee and to thy seed after thee, that thou mayest inherit the land of thy sojournings and all the land which God gave to Abraham : go, my son, in peace." 12. And Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Mesopotamia, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebecca, Jacob's mother. 13. And it came to pass after Jacob had arisen to go to Mesopotamia that the spirit of Rebecca was grieved after her son, and she wept. 14. And Isaac said to Rebecca : " My sister, weep not on account of Jacob, my son ; for he has gone in peace, and in peace will he return. 15. The Most High God will preserve him from all evil, and will be with him ; for he will not forsake him all his days ; 16. For I know that his ways will be prospered¹ in all things wherever he goes, until he return in peace to us, and we see him in peace. 17. Fear not on his account, my sister, for he is on the upright path and he is a perfect man : he is faithful and will not perish. Weep not." 18. And Isaac comforted Rebecca on account of her son Jacob, and blessed him. 19. And Jacob went from the well of the oath to go to Haran on the first year of the second week in the forty-fourth jubilee, and he came to Lûz on the mountains, that is, Bethel, on the new moon of the first month of this week, and he came to the place at even and

¹ Emended with Lat.

turned from the way to the west of the road that night: and he slept there; for the sun had set. 20. And he took one of the stones of that place and laid (it at his head) under the tree, and he was journeying alone, and he slept. 21. And he dreamt that night, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven, and behold, the angels of the Lord ascended and descended on it: and behold, the Lord stood upon it. 22. And he spake to Jacob and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac; the land whereon thou art sleeping, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed after thee. 23. And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou wilt increase to the west and to the east, to the south and the north, and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the nations be blessed. 24. And behold, I will be with thee, and will keep thee whithersoever thou goest, and I will bring thee again into this land in peace; for I will not leave thee until I have done everything that I told thee of." 25. And Jacob slept his sleep,¹ and said, "Truly this place is the house of the Lord, and I knew it not." And he was afraid and said: "Dreadful is this place which is none other than the house of the Lord, and this is the gate of heaven." 26. And Jacob arose early in the morning, and took the stone which he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar for a sign, and he poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of the place was Lûz at the first. 27. And Jacob vowed a vow unto the Lord, saying: "If the Lord will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then shall the Lord be my God, and this stone which I have set up as a pillar for a sign in this place, shall be the Lord's house, and of all that thou givest me, I will give the tenth to thee, my God.

XXVIII.—And he went on his journey, and came to the land of the east, to Laban, the brother of Rebecca, and he was with him, and served him for Rachel his daughter one week. 2. And in the first year of the third week he said unto him: "Give me my wife, for whom I have served thee seven years"; and Laban said unto Jacob: "I will give thee thy wife." 3. And Laban made a feast, and took Leah his elder daughter, and gave (her) to Jacob as a wife, and gave her Zilpah his handmaid for an handmaid; and Jacob did not know, for he thought that she was Rachel. 4. And he went in unto her, and behold, she was Leah; and Jacob was angry with Laban, and said unto him: "Why hast thou dealt thus with me? Did not I serve

¹ We should emend "awaked out of his sleep."

thee for Rachel and not for Leah? Why hast thou wronged me? Take thy daughter, and I will go; for thou hast done evil to me." 5. For Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah; for Leah's eyes were weak, but her form was very handsome; but Rachel had beautiful eyes and a beautiful and very handsome form. 6. And Laban said to Jacob: "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the elder; and it is not right to do this; for thus it is ordained and written in the heavenly tables, that no one should give his younger daughter before he give his elder daughter, but after her the younger; and the man who does so, they set down guilt against him in heaven, and none is righteous that does this thing, for this deed is evil before the Lord." 7. And command thou the children of Israel that they do not this thing; let them neither take nor give the younger before they have given the elder, for it is very wicked. 8. And Laban said to Jacob: "Let the seven days of the feast of this one pass by, and I will give thee Rachel, that thou mayst serve me another seven years, that thou mayst pasture my sheep as thou didst in the former week." 9. And on the day when the seven days of the feast of Leah had passed, Laban gave Rachel to Jacob, that he might serve him another seven years, and he gave to Rachel Bilhah, the sister of Zilpah, as a handmaid. 10. And he served yet other seven years for Rachel, for Leah had been given to him for nothing. 11. And the Lord opened the womb of Leah, and she conceived and bare Jacob a son, and he called his name Reuben, on the fourteenth day of the ninth month, in the first year of the third week. 12. But the womb of Rachel was closed, for the Lord saw that Leah was hated and Rachel loved. 13. And again Jacob went in unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob a second son, and he called his name Simeon, on the twenty-first of the tenth month, and in the third year of this week. 14. And again Jacob went in unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare him a third son, and he called his name Levi, in the new moon of the first month, in the sixth year of this week. 15. And again Jacob went in unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare him a fourth son, and he called his name Judah, on the fifteenth of the third month, in the first year of the fourth week. 16. And on account of all this Rachel envied Leah, for she did not bear, and she said to Jacob: "Give me children"; and Jacob said: "Have I withheld from thee the fruits of thy womb? Have I forsaken thee?" 17. And when Rachel saw that Leah had borne four sons to Jacob, Reuben and Simeon and Levi and Judah, she said unto him: "Go in unto Bilhah my handmaid, and she will conceive, and bear a son unto me." 18. And she gave (him) Bilhah her handmaid to wife.¹ And he went in unto her,

¹ Inserted from Lat. with Gen. xxx. 4.

and she conceived, and bare him a son, and he called his name Dan, on the ninth of the sixth month, in the sixth year of the third week. 19. And Jacob went in again unto Bilhah a second time, and she conceived, and bare Jacob another son, and Rachel called his name Napthali, on the fifth of the seventh month, in the second year of the fourth week. 20. And when Leah saw that she had become sterile and left bearing, she took and gave¹ her handmaid Zilpah to Jacob to wife, and she conceived, and bare a son, and Leah called his name Gad, on the twelfth of the eighth month, in the third year of the fourth jubilee. 21. And he went in again unto her, and she conceived, and bare him another son, and Leah called his name Asher, on the second of the eleventh month, in the fifth year of the fourth week. 22. And Jacob went in unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Issachar, on the fourth of the fifth month, in the fourth year of the fourth week, and she gave him to a nurse. 23. And Jacob went in again unto her, and she conceived, and bare two (children), a son and a daughter, and she called the name of the son Zabulon, and the name of the daughter she called Dinah, in the seventh of the seventh month, in the sixth year of the fourth week. 24. And the Lord was gracious to Rachel, and opened her womb, and she conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Joseph, on the new moon of the fourth month, in the sixth year in this fourth week. 25. And in the days when Joseph was born, Jacob said to Laban : "Give me my wives and my sons, and let me go to my father Isaac, and let me make me an house ; for I have completed the years in which I have served thee for thy two daughters, and I will go to the house of my father." 26. And Laban said to Jacob : "Tarry with me for thy wages, and pasture my flock for me again, and take thy wages." 27. And they agreed with one another that he should give him as his wages all the offspring (lit. "sheep") of the lambs and kids which were born black² and spotted and white,³ (these) were to be his wages. 28. And all the sheep brought forth ringstraked and speckled and variously spotted⁴ and they brought forth again offspring like themselves, and all that were spotted were Jacob's, and those which were not were Laban's. 29. And Jacob's possessions multiplied exceedingly, and he possessed sheep and oxen and asses and camels, and men-servants and maid-servants. 30. And Laban and his sons envied Jacob, and Laban took back his sheep from him, and he observed him with evil intent.

¹ Emended.

² Emended.

³ The Greek translator of the Jubilees here rendered λευκόν as in LXX., Gen. xxx. 32. It should be διάλευκον, "speckled."

⁴ Text of ABC emended.

XXIX.—And it came to pass when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Laban went to shear his sheep; for they were distant from him a three days' journey. 2. And Jacob saw that Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Jacob called Leah and Rachel, and spake kindly unto them that they should come with him to the land of Canaan. 3. For he told them all that he had seen in a dream, and all that he had spoken unto him that he should return to his father's house; and they said: "We will go to every place whither thou goest with thee." 4. And Jacob blessed the God of Isaac his father, and the God of Abraham his father's father, and he arose and mounted his wives and his children, and took all his possessions and crossed the river, and came to the land of Gilead, and Jacob stole away unawares from¹ Laban and told him not. 5. And in the seventh year of the fourth week Jacob turned (his face) toward Gilead in the first month, on the twenty-first. And Laban pursued after him and overtook Jacob in the mountain of Gilead in the third month, on the thirteenth thereof. 6. And the Lord did not suffer him to injure Jacob; for he appeared to him in a dream by night. And Laban spake to Jacob. 7. And on the fifteenth of those days Jacob made a feast for Laban, and for all who came with him, and Jacob sware to Laban that day, and Laban also to Jacob, that neither should cross the mountain of Gilead to the other² with evil purpose. 8. And he made there a heap for a witness; wherefore the name of that place is called: "The heap of witness," after this heap. 9. But before they had called the land of Gilead the land of Râfâêm; for it was the land of the Râfâêm, and the Râfâêm were born (there), giants whose height was ten, nine, eight down to seven cubits. 10. And their habitation was from the land of the sons of Ammon to Mount Hermon, and the seats of their kingdom were Qarânâîm and Astarôs, and Adrâa, and Mîsûr, and Bêwôn. 11. And the Lord destroyed them because of the evil of their deeds; for they were very malignant, and he caused³ the Amorites to dwell in their stead, wicked and sinful, and there is no people to-day which has wrought to the full all their sins, and they have no longer length of life on the earth. 12. And Jacob sent away Laban, and he departed into Mesopotamia, the land of the East, and Jacob returned to the land of Gilead. 13. And he passed over the Jabbok in the ninth month, on the eleventh thereof. And on that day Esau, his brother, came to him, and he was reconciled³ to him, and departed from him unto the land of Seir, but Jacob dwelt in tents. 14. And

¹ Lit. "hid the heart of," where the Eth. translator mistook ἔκρυψε for ἐκλεψε, i.e., גָּנַב.

² Emended.

³ Emended with Lat.

in the first year of the fifth week in this jubilee he crossed the Jordan, and dwelt beyond the Jordan, and he pastured his sheep from the sea of the heap unto Bethasan, and unto Dôthâîm, and unto the oak¹ of Aqrâbêth. 15. And he sent to his father Isaac of all his substance, clothing, and food, and meat, and drink, and milk, and butter, and bread of milk, and some dates of the valley. 16. And to his mother Rebecca also four times a year, between the times of the months, between ploughing and reaping, and between autumn and the rain, and between the winter and spring, to the tower of Abraham. 17. For Isaac had returned from the well of the oath and gone up to the tower of his father Abraham, and he dwelt there apart from his son Esau. 18. For in the days when Jacob went to Mesopotamia, Esau took to himself a wife Mâalêt, the daughter of Ishmael, and he gathered together all the flocks of his father and his wives, and went up and dwelt on Mount Seir, and left Isaac his father at the well of the oath alone. 19. And Isaac went up from the well of the oath and dwelt in the tower of Abraham his father on the mountains of Kêbrôn. 20. And thither² Jacob sent all that he did send to his father and his mother from time to time, all they needed, and they blessed Jacob with all their heart and with all their soul.

XXX.—And in the first year of the sixth week he went up to Salem, to the east of Shechem, in peace, in the fourth month. 2. And there they carried off Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, into the house of Shechem, the son of Hamor, the Hivite, the prince of the land, and he lay with her and defiled her, and she was a little girl, a child of twelve years. 3. And he besought her father and her brothers that she might be given to him to wife. And Jacob and his sons were wroth because of the men of Shechem; for they had defiled Dinah, their sister, and they spake to them with evil intent and dealt deceitfully with them and beguiled them. 4. And Simeon and Levi came unexpectedly to Shechem and executed judgment on all the men of Shechem, and slew all the men whom they found in it, and left not a single one remaining in it: they slew all in judgment³ because they had dishonoured their sister Dinah. 5. And thus let it not again be done from henceforth that a daughter of Israel be defiled; for judgment is ordained in heaven against them that they should destroy with the sword all the men of the Shechemites because they had wrought shame in Israel. 6. And the Lord delivered them into the hands of the sons of Jacob that they might exterminate them with the sword and execute judgment upon them, and that it might not thus again be done in Israel that a virgin of Israel should

¹ Emended.² Emended with Latin.³ Corrected with Lat.

be defiled. 7. And if there is any man who wishes in Israel to give his daughter or his sister to any man who is of the seed of the Gentiles he shall surely die, and they shall stone him with stones; for he hath wrought shame in Israel; and they shall burn the woman with fire, because she has dishonoured the name of the house of her father, and she shall be rooted out of Israel. 8. And let not an adulteress and unclean person be found in Israel throughout all the days of the generations of the earth; for Israel is holy unto the Lord, and every man who has defiled (it) shall surely die: they shall stone him with stones. 9. For thus has it been ordained and written in the heavenly tables regarding all the seed of Israel: he who has defiled (it) shall surely die, and he shall be stoned with stones. 10. And to this law there is no limit of days, and no remission, nor any atonement: but the man who has defiled his daughter shall be rooted out in the midst of all Israel, because he has given of his seed to the stranger,¹ and wrought impiously so as to defile (it). 11. And do thou, Moses, command the children of Israel and exhort them not to give their daughters to the Gentiles, and not to take for their sons² any of the daughters of the Gentiles, for this is abominable before the Lord. 12. For this reason I have written for thee in the words of the Law all the deeds of the Shechemites, which they wrought against Dinah, and how the sons of Jacob spake, saying: "We will not give our daughter to a man who is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us." 13. And it is a reproach to Israel, to those who give, and to those that take the daughters of the Gentiles; for this is unclean and abominable to Israel. 14. And Israel will not be free from this uncleanness if it has a wife of the daughters of the Gentiles, or has given any of its daughters to a man who is of any of the Gentiles. 15. For there will be plague upon plague, and curse upon curse, and every judgment and plague and curse will come if he do this thing or connive at those who commit uncleanness; or those who defile the sanctuary of the Lord; or those who profane his holy name; then shall the whole people together be judged for all the uncleanness and this profanation of this (man). 16. And there will be no respect of persons [and no consideration of persons],³ and no receiving at his hands of fruits and offerings and burnt-offerings and fat, nor will he be filled with the sweet savour,⁴ so as to accept it: and so fare every man or woman in Israel who defiles the sanctuary. 17. For this reason I have commanded thee,

¹ So Lat.; Eth. corruptly gives "Moloch."

² Emended with Lat. from A.

³ A gloss, Latin omits.

⁴ Better read with Lat., "nor will he smell the savour."

saying : “ Testify this testimony over Israel : see how the Shechemites fared and their sons, and how they were delivered into the hands of two sons of Jacob, and they slew them in judgment,¹ and it became unto them righteousness, and it is written down to them for righteousness. 18. And the seed of Levi was chosen for the priesthood, and to be Levites, that they might minister before the Lord, as we, continually, and Levi will be blessed and his sons for ever ; for he was zealous to execute righteousness and judgment and vengeance on all those who arose against Israel. 19. And so they inscribe as a testimony in his favour on the heavenly tables blessing and righteousness before the God of all : 20. And we remember the righteousness which the man fulfilled during his life, at all periods of the year ; until a thousand generations they will record it, and it will come to him and to his descendants after him, and he has been recorded on the heavenly tables as a friend and a righteous man. 21. All this account I have written for thee, and have commanded thee to announce it to the children of Israel, lest they commit sin and transgress the ordinances and break the covenant which has been ordained for them, and that they may fulfil it and be recorded as friends (of God). 22. But if they have transgressed and wrought beyond all the ways of uncleanness they will be recorded on the heavenly tables as adversaries (of God), and they will be destroyed out of the book of life, and they will be recorded in the book of those who shall be destroyed and with those who shall be rooted out of the earth. 23. And on the day when the sons of Jacob slew Shechem a writing was recorded in their favour in heaven that they had executed righteousness and uprightness and vengeance on the sinners, and it was recorded for a blessing. 24. And they brought Dinah, their sister out of the house of Shechem, and they took captive everything that was in Shechem, their sheep and their oxen and their asses, and all their wealth, and all their flocks, and brought them all to their father Jacob. 25. And he spake to them regarding their slaughter of the city ; for he feared those who dwelt in the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. 26. And the dread of the Lord was upon all the cities which are around about Shechem, and they did not rise to pursue after the sons of Jacob ; for terror had fallen upon them.

XXXI.—And on the new moon of the month Jacob spake to all the people of his house, saying : “ Purify yourselves and change your garments, and let us arise and go up to Bethel, where I vowed a vow to him in the day when I was fleeing from the face of Esau my brother, because he has been with me and brought me into this land

¹ Corrected with Lat. ; Eth., “ in torture.”

in peace, and put away the strange gods that are among you." 2. And they gave up¹ the strange gods and that which was in their ears and which was on their necks, and the idols which Rachel stole from Laban her father,² she gave wholly to Jacob. And he burnt and brake them to pieces and destroyed them, and hid them under an oak which is in the land of Shechem. 3. And he went up on the new moon of the seventh month to Bethel. And he built an altar at the place where he had slept, and he set up a pillar there, and he sent word to his father Isaac to come to him to his sacrifice, and to his mother Rebecca. 4. And Isaac said: "Let my son Jacob come, and let me see him before I die." 5. And Jacob went to his father Isaac and to his mother Rebecca, to the house of his father Abraham, and he took two of his sons with him, Levi and Judah, and he came to his father Isaac and to his mother Rebecca. 6. And Rebecca came forth from the tower to the front of it to kiss Jacob and embrace him; for her spirit was alive when she heard: "Behold Jacob thy son has come"; and she kissed him. 7. And she saw his two sons, and she recognised them, and said unto him: "Are these thy sons, my son?" and she embraced them and kissed them, and blessed them, saying: "In you shall the seed of Abraham become illustrious, and ye will prove a blessing on the earth." 8. And Jacob went in to Isaac his father, to the chamber where he lay, and his two sons were with him, and he took the hand of his father, and stooping down he kissed him, and Isaac clung to the neck of Jacob his son, and wept upon his neck. 9. And the darkness left the eyes of Isaac, and he saw the two sons of Jacob, Levi, and Judah, and he said: "Are these thy sons, my son? for they are like thee." 10. And he said unto him that they were truly his sons: "And thou hast truly seen that they are indeed my sons." 11. And they came near, and he turned and kissed them and embraced them both together. 12. And the spirit of prophecy came down into his mouth, and he took Levi by his right hand and Judah by his left. 13. And he turned to Levi first, and began to bless him first, and said: "May the God of all, the very Lord of all the ages, bless thee and thy children throughout all the ages. 14. And may the Lord give to thee and to thy seed greatness and great glory,³ and cause thee and thy seed, from among all flesh, to approach him to serve in his sanctuary as the angels of the presence and as the holy ones; (even) as they, will the seed of thy sons be for glory and greatness and holiness, and may he make them great in all the ages. 15. And they will be princes and judges, and chiefs of all the seed of the sons of Jacob; they will speak the word of the Lord in righteous-

¹ Emended.

² Emended.

³ Corrupt Lat. gives: *Magno intellegere gloriam ejus.*

ness, and they will judge all his judgments in righteousness, and declare my ways to Jacob and my paths to Israel. The blessing of the Lord will be given in their mouths that they may bless all the seed of the beloved. 16. Thy mother has called thy name Levi, and justly has she (thus) called thy name; thou wilt be attached to the Lord and be the companion of all the sons of Jacob; let his table be thine, and do thou and thy sons eat thereof, and may thy table be full unto all generations, and may thy food not fail unto all the ages. 17. And let all who hate thee fall down before thee, and let all thy adversaries be rooted out and perish, and blessed be he that blesses thee, and cursed be every nation that curses thee." 18. And to Judah he said: "May the Lord give thee strength and power to tread down all that hate thee; be a prince, thou and one of thy sons, over the sons of Jacob; may thy name and the name of thy sons go forth and traverse the whole earth and the countries; then shall the Gentiles fear thy face, and all the nations shall quake and all the peoples shall quake. 19. In thee may there be the help of Jacob, and in thee may there be found the salvation¹ of Israel. 20. And when thou sittest on the throne of honour, thy righteousness will prove to be² great peace for all the seed of the sons of the beloved; blessed be he that blesseth thee, and all that hate thee and afflict thee and curse thee shall be rooted out and destroyed from the earth and be accursed." 21. And turning he kissed him again and embraced him, and rejoiced greatly; for he had seen the sons of Jacob his son in very truth. 22. And he went forth from between his feet and fell down and bowed down to him, and he blessed them and stayed there with Isaac his father that night, and they eat and drank with joy. 23. And he made the two sons of Jacob sleep, the one on his right hand and the other on his left, and it was counted to him for righteousness. 24. And Jacob told his father everything during the night, how the Lord had shown him great mercy, and how he had prospered him in all his ways, and protected him from all evil. 25. And Isaac blessed the God of his father Abraham, who had not withdrawn his mercy and his righteousness from the sons of his servant Isaac. 26. And in the morning Jacob told his father Isaac the vow which he had vowed to the Lord, and the vision which he had seen, and that he had built an altar, and that everything was ready for the sacrifice to be made before the Lord as he had vowed, and that he had come to set him on an ass. 27. And Isaac said unto Jacob his son: "I am not able to go with thee; for I am old and not able to bear the way: go, my son, in

¹ Or "helper" and "Saviour."

² So B C, or following D, "Throne of the glory of thy righteousness, there will be."

peace ; for I am one hundred and sixty-five years this day ; I am no longer able to journey ; set thy mother (on an ass) and let her go with thee. 28. And I know, my son, that thou hast come on my account, and may this day be blessed on which thou hast seen me alive, and I also have seen thee, my son. 29. Mayest thou prosper and fulfil the vow which thou hast vowed ; and put not off thy vow ; for thou shalt be called to account as touching the vow ; now therefore make haste to perform it, and may he be pleased who has made all things, to whom thou hast vowed the vow." 30. And he said to Rebecca : " Go with Jacob thy son" ; and Rebecca went with Jacob her son, and Deborah with her, and they came to Bethel. 31. And Jacob remembered the prayer with which his father had blessed him and his two sons, Levi and Judah, and he rejoiced and blessed the God of his fathers, Abraham and Isaac. 32. And he said : " Now I know that I have an eternal hope, and my sons also, before the God of all ;" and thus is it ordained concerning the two ; and they have recorded it as an eternal testimony unto them in the heavenly tables how Isaac blessed them.

R. H. CHARLES.
